

Claims

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1 1. A method of interconnecting a first server computer
2 (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second server
3 computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of said
4 first server computer (112) and said second server
5 computer (122) being connected to at least one client
6 computer (111, 121);

7 said first server computer (112) running a first
8 workflow management system application (3), and said
9 second server computer (122) running a second workflow
10 management system application (4);

11 said method comprising providing a first and a second
12 connector application (5a, 6a) for permitting said first
13 server computer (112) access to a copy of said first
14 connector application (5a) and for permitting said
15 second server computer (122) access to a copy of said
16 second connector application (6a);

17 wherein said copies of said first and said second
18 connector application (5a, 6a) each comprises a
19 connection agreement (8, 12) for a first work task (7)
20 of a first workflow instance (18) encompassed by said
21 first workflow management system application (3);

22 which copy of said first connector application (5a)
23 further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said first
2 connector application (5a) resides in a first access
3 device (5) of said service requestor (1); said first
4 access device (5) comprising a first access computer
5 including said first connector application (5a).

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said
2 second connector application (6a) resides in a second
3 access device (6) of said service provider (2); said
4 second access device (6) comprising a second access
5 computer including said second connector application
6 (6a).

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of the first
2 connector application (5a) resides in said first server
3 computer (112) of said service requestor (1).

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of the second
2 connector application (6a) resides in said second server
3 computer (122) of said service provider (2).

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said first
2 connector application (5a) resides in said first client
3 computer (111).

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said
2 second connector application (6a) resides in said second
3 client computer (121).

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said first workflow
2 management system application (3) is essentially the same

as said second workflow management system application (4).

10. A computer network comprising a first server computer (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second server computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of said first server computer (112) and said second server computer (122) being connected to at least one client computer (111, 121);

said first server computer (112) running a first workflow management system application (3), and said second server computer (122) running a second workflow management system application (4);

said first and second server computer (112, 122) being interconnected by means of a first and a second connector application (5a, 6a) arranged in such a manner that said first server computer (112) having access to a copy of said first connector application (5a) and said second server computer (122) having access to a copy of said second connector application (6a);

wherein said first and said second connector application (5a, 6a) each comprise a connection agreement (8, 12) for a first work task (7) of a first workflow instance (18) encompassed by said first workflow management system application (3);

which copy of said first connector application (5a) further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a first service terminology (9a) and a common terminology

26 (9b, 13b), and which copy of said second connector
 27 application (6a) further comprises a second mapping table
 28 (13) including a second service terminology (13a) and
 29 said common terminology (13b);

30 said first work task (7) being transposed by said first
 31 mapping table (9) from said first service terminology
 32 (9a) into an input data set (ip1, ip2) in said common
 33 terminology (9b, 13b);

34 said input data set (ip1, ip2) being marshalled to said
 35 second server computer (122) over a common connection
 36 (17), and said marshalled input data set (ip1, ip2) being
 37 transposed to a second work task (15) by said second
 38 mapping table (13) from said common terminology (9b, 13b)
 39 into said second service terminology (13a), and said
 40 second work task (15) being processed by said second
 41 workflow management system application (4).

1 11. The network of claim 10 wherein said processed
 2 second work task (15) generates a result (wo1, wo2), said
 3 result (wo1, wo2) being transposed by said second mapping
 4 table (13) from said second service terminology (13a)
 5 into an output data (op1, op2) in said common terminology
 6 (9b, 13b), said mapped output data set (op1, op2) being
 7 marshalled to said first server computer (112) over said
 8 common connection (17), and said marshalled output data
 9 being transposed by said first mapping table (9) from
 10 said common terminology (9b, 13b) into said first service
 11 terminology (2a).

1 12. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
 2 first connector application (5a) resides in a first
 3 access device (5) of said service requestor (1), which
 4 first access device (5) comprises a first access computer
 5 including said first connector application (5a).

1 13. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
 2 second connector application (6a) resides in a second
 3 access device (6) of said service provider (2), which
 4 second access device (6) comprises a second access
 5 computer including said second connector application
 6 (6a).

1 14. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of the
 2 first connector application (5a) resides in said first
 3 server computer (112) of said service requestor (1).

1 15. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of the
 2 second connector application (6a) resides in the second
 3 server computer (122) of said service provider (2).

1 16. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
 2 first connector application (5a) resides in said first
 3 client computer (111).

1 17. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
 2 second connector application (6a) resides in said second
 3 client computer (121).

1 18. The network of claim 10 wherein said first workflow
 2 management system application (3) is essentially the same

3 as said second workflow management system application
4 (4) .

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